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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Steven Browning Sample, who passed away on March 29, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Steven Sample was born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 29, 1940; while attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he married his college sweetheart, Kathryn Brunkow; he later earned his bachelor's degree, master's degree, and Ph.D. in electrical engineering; and

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WHEREAS, After college, Steven Sample accepted a faculty position at Purdue University; he later continued his academic career at the University of Illinois and the University of Nebraska; at the age of 41, he was selected to serve as the 12th president of the State University of New York at Buffalo; during his tenure there, the university was elected to the prestigious Association of American Universities, where he later served as chairman; and

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WHEREAS, Steven Sample served as the University of Southern California's 10th president from 1991 to 2010; during his tenure as president, the University of Southern California became a highly selective undergraduate university, recruited many nationally prominent faculty, created a global presence,

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1 completed what was at the time the largest fundraising campaign
2 ever in higher education, and built partnerships in the
3 communities surrounding the University of Southern
4 California's campuses; he made improving undergraduate
5 education the university's highest priority, overseeing the
6 revision of the curriculum, introducing the Renaissance
7 Scholars program and creating new majors and minors to provide
8 "breadth with depth"; he co-founded the Association of Pacific
9 Rim Universities, a consortium of 45 leading research
10 universities in the Pacific region, and promoted the University
11 of Southern California's role in positioning Los Angeles as the
12 de facto capital of the Pacific Rim; he also launched the USC
13 Good Neighbors Campaign, asking University of Southern
14 California faculty and staff to contribute funds to
15 transformative programs such as the USC Neighborhood Academic
16 Initiative, which prepares low-income students from the
17 surrounding areas for admission to University of Southern
18 California and other universities; and

19 WHEREAS, During Steven Sample's tenure, the University of
20 Southern California rose dramatically in the college rankings,
21 the number of freshman applicants more than tripled, and the
22 student body grew increasingly diverse; Time
23 Magazine/Princeton Review also named the University of
24 Southern California "College of the Year" in 2000; and

1 WHEREAS, After retiring as president in 2010, Steven Sample
2 remained active at the university; he served on the USC Board
3 of Trustees as a Life Trustee and continued to co-teach the
4 popular undergraduate course "The Art and Adventure of
5 Leadership" with the late management expert Warren Bennis; and

6 WHEREAS, Steven Sample was a member of the National Academy
7 of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences;
8 he invented and patented several devices, including digital
9 appliance controls and touch pads, which are used in more than
10 300 million microwave ovens and other home appliances
11 worldwide; and

12 WHEREAS, Steven Sample was the author of "The Contrarian's
13 Guide to Leadership", a Los Angeles Times bestseller that was
14 translated into five languages; and

15 WHEREAS, In recognition of his civic achievements, Steven
16 Sample received the Distinguished Business Leader Award from
17 the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Heart of the
18 City Award from the Central City Association of Los Angeles; he
19 also received honorary doctorates from Canisius College,
20 Buffalo, D'Youville College, Hebrew Union College,
21 Northeastern University, Purdue University, SUNY Buffalo, the
22 University of Nebraska, the University of Notre Dame, and the
23 University of Sheffield, England; and

1 WHEREAS, Steven Sample is survived by his wife, Kathryn
2 Brunkow Sample; his daughters, Michelle Sample Smith and
3 Elizabeth Sample, his son-in-law, Kirk Smith; and his
4 grandchildren, Kathryn and Andrew Smith; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
7 family and friends, mourn the passing of Steven Browning
8 Sample; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Steven Sample as an expression of
11 our sympathy.